

Taxon: *Heteroblemma serpens* (Stapf) Cámara-Leret, Ridd.-Num. & Veldkamp

Family: Melastomataceae

Common Name(s): creeping Medinilla
Medinilla serpens
trailing Medinilla

Synonym(s): Medinilla serpens Stapf

Assessor: Chuck Chimera

Status: Approved

End Date: 31 Aug 2026

WRA Score: 6.0

Designation: EVALUATE

Rating: Evaluate

Keywords: Epiphytic, Climber, Shade-Tolerant, Bird-Dispersed, Small Seeds

Qsn #	Question	Answer Option	Answer
101	Is the species highly domesticated?	y = -3, n = 0	n
102	Has the species become naturalized where grown?		
103	Does the species have weedy races?		
201	Species suited to tropical or subtropical climate(s) - If island is primarily wet habitat, then substitute "wet tropical" for "tropical or subtropical"	0 = low, 1 = intermediate, 2 = high (see Appendix 2)	High
202	Quality of climate match data	0 = low, 1 = intermediate, 2 = high (see Appendix 2)	High
203	Broad climate suitability (environmental versatility)	y = 1, n = 0	n
204	Native or naturalized in regions with tropical or subtropical climates	y = 1, n = 0	y
205	Does the species have a history of repeated introductions outside its natural range?	y = -2, ? = -1, n = 0	n
301	Naturalized beyond native range	y = 1*multiplier (see Appendix 2), n = question 205	n
302	Garden/amenity/disturbance weed	y = 1*multiplier (see Appendix 2), n = 0	n
303	Agricultural/forestry/horticultural weed	y = 2*multiplier (see Appendix 2), n = 0	n
304	Environmental weed	y = 2*multiplier (see Appendix 2), n = 0	n
305	Congeneric weed	y = 1*multiplier (see Appendix 2), n = 0	n
401	Produces spines, thorns or burrs	y = 1, n = 0	n
402	Allelopathic		
403	Parasitic	y = 1, n = 0	n
404	Unpalatable to grazing animals		
405	Toxic to animals	y = 1, n = 0	n
406	Host for recognized pests and pathogens		
407	Causes allergies or is otherwise toxic to humans	y = 1, n = 0	n
408	Creates a fire hazard in natural ecosystems	y = 1, n = 0	n
409	Is a shade tolerant plant at some stage of its life cycle	y = 1, n = 0	y

Qsn #	Question	Answer Option	Answer
410	Tolerates a wide range of soil conditions (or limestone conditions if not a volcanic island)	y = 1, n = 0	y
411	Climbing or smothering growth habit	y = 1, n = 0	y
412	Forms dense thickets	y = 1, n = 0	n
501	Aquatic	y = 5, n = 0	n
502	Grass	y = 1, n = 0	n
503	Nitrogen fixing woody plant	y = 1, n = 0	n
504	Geophyte (herbaceous with underground storage organs -- bulbs, corms, or tubers)	y = 1, n = 0	n
601	Evidence of substantial reproductive failure in native habitat	y = 1, n = 0	n
602	Produces viable seed	y = 1, n = -1	y
603	Hybridizes naturally		
604	Self-compatible or apomictic		
605	Requires specialist pollinators	y = -1, n = 0	n
606	Reproduction by vegetative fragmentation		
607	Minimum generative time (years)		
701	Propagules likely to be dispersed unintentionally (plants growing in heavily trafficked areas)	y = 1, n = -1	n
702	Propagules dispersed intentionally by people	y = 1, n = -1	y
703	Propagules likely to disperse as a produce contaminant		
704	Propagules adapted to wind dispersal	y = 1, n = -1	n
705	Propagules water dispersed		
706	Propagules bird dispersed	y = 1, n = -1	y
707	Propagules dispersed by other animals (externally)		
708	Propagules survive passage through the gut	y = 1, n = -1	y
801	Prolific seed production (>1000/m2)		
802	Evidence that a persistent propagule bank is formed (>1 yr)		
803	Well controlled by herbicides		
804	Tolerates, or benefits from, mutilation, cultivation, or fire		
805	Effective natural enemies present locally (e.g. introduced biocontrol agents)		

Supporting Data:

Qsn #	Question	Answer
101	Is the species highly domesticated?	n
	Source(s)	Notes
	Cámara-Leret, R., Ridder-Numan, J. W. A., & Veldkamp, J. F. (2013). Revision of <i>Heteroblemma</i> gen. nov. (Dissochaeteae-Melastomataceae) from Malesia and Vietnam. <i>Blumea-Biodiversity, Evolution and Biogeography of Plants</i> , 58(3), 229-240	[No evidence of domestication] "Distribution – Sumatra (Riau Arch: Tudjuh Island), Sarawak (1st Div.), Sabah (Tambunan Distr.). Habitat – On trees or rocks, limestone hills, only one reference to altitude: 460 m altitude."

102	Has the species become naturalized where grown?	
	Source(s)	Notes
	WRA Specialist. (2026). Personal Communication	NA

103	Does the species have weedy races?	
	Source(s)	Notes
	WRA Specialist. (2026). Personal Communication	NA

201	Species suited to tropical or subtropical climate(s) - If island is primarily wet habitat, then substitute "wet tropical" for "tropical or subtropical"	High
	Source(s)	Notes
	Cámara-Leret, R., Ridder-Numan, J. W. A., & Veldkamp, J. F. (2013). Revision of <i>Heteroblemma</i> gen. nov. (Dissochaeteae-Melastomataceae) from Malesia and Vietnam. <i>Blumea-Biodiversity, Evolution and Biogeography of Plants</i> , 58(3), 229-240	"Distribution – Sumatra (Riau Arch: Tudjuh Island), Sarawak (1st Div.), Sabah (Tambunan Distr.)."
	Regalado, J. C., Jr. (1990). Revision of <i>Medinilla</i> (Melastomataceae) of Borneo. <i>Blumea</i> , 35(1), 5-70	"Distribution. Borneo (extreme southwestern Sarawak, 7 coll.), also found in Riau Archipelago (Tudjuh Island) as documented by Bunnemeyer 5921 (BO)."

202	Quality of climate match data	High
	Source(s)	Notes
	Cámara-Leret, R., Ridder-Numan, J. W. A., & Veldkamp, J. F. (2013). Revision of <i>Heteroblemma</i> gen. nov. (Dissochaeteae-Melastomataceae) from Malesia and Vietnam. <i>Blumea-Biodiversity, Evolution and Biogeography of Plants</i> , 58(3), 229-240	"Distribution – Sumatra (Riau Arch: Tudjuh Island), Sarawak (1st Div.), Sabah (Tambunan Distr.)."

Qsn #	Question	Answer
203	Broad climate suitability (environmental versatility)	n
	Source(s)	Notes
	Cámara-Leret, R., Ridder-Numan, J. W. A., & Veldkamp, J. F. (2013). Revision of <i>Heteroblemma</i> gen. nov. (Dissochaeteae-Melastomataceae) from Malesia and Vietnam. <i>Blumea-Biodiversity, Evolution and Biogeography of Plants</i> , 58(3), 229-240	"Distribution – Sumatra (Riau Arch: Tudjuh Island), Sarawak (1st Div.), Sabah (Tambunan Distr.). Habitat – On trees or rocks, limestone hills, only one reference to altitude: 460 m altitude."
	WRA Specialist. (2026). Personal Communication	No evidence that the species occurs across a broad range of climatic conditions; its restricted distribution and specialized habitat suggest limited environmental versatility.

204	Native or naturalized in regions with tropical or subtropical climates	y
	Source(s)	Notes
	Cámara-Leret, R., Ridder-Numan, J. W. A., & Veldkamp, J. F. (2013). Revision of <i>Heteroblemma</i> gen. nov. (Dissochaeteae-Melastomataceae) from Malesia and Vietnam. <i>Blumea-Biodiversity, Evolution and Biogeography of Plants</i> , 58(3), 229-240	"Distribution – Sumatra (Riau Arch: Tudjuh Island), Sarawak (1st Div.), Sabah (Tambunan Distr.). Habitat – On trees or rocks, limestone hills, only one reference to altitude: 460 m altitude."

205	Does the species have a history of repeated introductions outside its natural range?	n
	Source(s)	Notes
	WRA Specialist. (2026). Personal Communication	Although cultivated, and sold online and in at least one local nursery on Oahu, no evidence of repeated introductions outside the species' native range was found.
	iNaturalist. (2026). <i>Heteroblemma serpens</i> . https://www.inaturalist.org/taxa/1683317-Heteroblemma-serpens . [Accessed 28 Aug 2026]	No Observations
	GBIF Secretariat (2026). <i>Heteroblemma serpens</i> (Stapf) Cámara-Leret, Ridd.-Num. & Veldkamp. GBIF Backbone Taxonomy. https://www.gbif.org/taxon/3L7S5 . [Accessed 28 Aug 2026]	No occurrence records documented outside native range

301	Naturalized beyond native range	n
	Source(s)	Notes
	Gallaher, T.J., Brock, K., Kennedy, B.H., Imada, C.T., Imada, K., & Walvoord, N. (2026). <i>Plants of Hawai'i</i> . http://www.plantsofhawaii.org . [Accessed 28 Aug 2026]	No evidence
	GBIF Secretariat (2026). <i>Heteroblemma serpens</i> (Stapf) Cámara-Leret, Ridd.-Num. & Veldkamp. GBIF Backbone Taxonomy. https://www.gbif.org/taxon/3L7S5 . [Accessed 28 Aug 2026]	No evidence
	WRA Specialist. (2026). Personal Communication	No evidence was found that <i>Heteroblemma serpens</i> has naturalized beyond its native range in Borneo.
	iNaturalist. (2026). <i>Heteroblemma serpens</i> . https://www.inaturalist.org/taxa/1683317-Heteroblemma-serpens . [Accessed 28 Aug 2026]	No records outside native range

302	Garden/amenity/disturbance weed	n
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Qsn #	Question	Answer
	Source(s)	Notes
	Randall, R.P. (2017). A Global Compendium of Weeds. 3rd Edition. Perth, Western Australia. R.P. Randall	No evidence
	WRA Specialist. (2026). Personal Communication	No evidence was found that <i>Heteroblemma serpens</i> is a garden, amenity, or disturbance weed.
303	Agricultural/forestry/horticultural weed	n
	Source(s)	Notes
	Randall, R.P. (2017). A Global Compendium of Weeds. 3rd Edition. Perth, Western Australia. R.P. Randall	No evidence
	WRA Specialist. (2026). Personal Communication	No evidence was found that <i>Heteroblemma serpens</i> is an agricultural, forestry, or horticultural weed.
304	Environmental weed	n
	Source(s)	Notes
	Randall, R.P. (2017). A Global Compendium of Weeds. 3rd Edition. Perth, Western Australia. R.P. Randall	No evidence
	WRA Specialist. (2026). Personal Communication	No evidence was found that <i>Heteroblemma serpens</i> is an environmental weed or has caused documented impacts in natural ecosystems.
305	Congeneric weed	n
	Source(s)	Notes
	WRA Specialist. (2026). Personal Communication	When <i>Heteroblemma serpens</i> was previously classified as <i>Medinilla serpens</i> , several species in the genus <i>Medinilla</i> were recognized as weeds. As currently recognized, no evidence was found that species of <i>Heteroblemma</i> are recognized as weeds.
401	Produces spines, thorns or burrs	n
	Source(s)	Notes
	Regalado, J. C., Jr. (1990). Revision of <i>Medinilla</i> (Melastomataceae) of Borneo. <i>Blumea</i> , 35(1), 5-70	[No evidence] "Climber on trees, reportedly to a height of c. 5 m. Young branchlets slender, flagellate, densely tomentose; hairs reddish brown, up to 2 mm long."
402	Allelopathic	
	Source(s)	Notes
	WRA Specialist. (2026). Personal Communication	Unknown. No evidence found
403	Parasitic	n
	Source(s)	Notes
	Regalado, J. C., Jr. (1990). Revision of <i>Medinilla</i> (Melastomataceae) of Borneo. <i>Blumea</i> , 35(1), 5-70	"Climber on trees, reportedly to a height of c. 5 m." [Melastomataceae. No evidence]
404	Unpalatable to grazing animals	

Qsn #	Question	Answer
	Source(s)	Notes
	Regalado, J. C., Jr. (1990). Revision of <i>Medinilla</i> (Melastomataceae) of Borneo. <i>Blumea</i> , 35(1), 5-70	"Climber on trees, reportedly to a height of c. 5 m." Unknown. Epiphytic habit may protect from or minimize herbivore activity]

405	Toxic to animals	n
	Source(s)	Notes
	WRA Specialist. (2026). Personal Communication	Based on the available scientific and horticultural data, <i>Heteroblemma serpens</i> is not considered toxic to animals. While there is no study specifically on <i>H. serpens</i> , the available evidence from its close relatives and its documented characteristics strongly suggests it is not toxic. As with any plant, it is still best practice not to encourage pets to eat it.
	Quattrocchi, U. (2012). CRC World Dictionary of Medicinal and Poisonous Plants: Common Names, Scientific Names, Eponyms, Synonyms, and Etymology. CRC Press, Boca Raton, FL	No evidence. Some species in the related genus <i>Medinilla</i> with medicinal us

406	Host for recognized pests and pathogens	
	Source(s)	Notes
	WRA Specialist. (2026). Personal Communication	Unknown. No direct evidence exists for <i>Heteroblemma serpens</i> as a specific host for pests or pathogens. It is likely susceptible to common pests (scale, spider mites, aphids, mealybugs) and diseases (root rot, leaf spot) that affect related <i>Heteroblemma</i> and <i>Medinilla</i> species, particularly when grown outside its natural habitat.

407	Causes allergies or is otherwise toxic to humans	n
	Source(s)	Notes
	WRA Specialist. (2026). Personal Communication	Based on all available data, <i>Heteroblemma serpens</i> is not known to be toxic or allergenic to humans (though, as with any plant, individuals with sensitive skin should avoid contact with sap, and ingestion is not recommended).
	Quattrocchi, U. (2012). CRC World Dictionary of Medicinal and Poisonous Plants: Common Names, Scientific Names, Eponyms, Synonyms, and Etymology. CRC Press, Boca Raton, FL	No evidence. Some species in the related genus <i>Medinilla</i> with medicinal uses

408	Creates a fire hazard in natural ecosystems	n
	Source(s)	Notes
	Regalado, J. C., Jr. (1990). Revision of <i>Medinilla</i> (Melastomataceae) of Borneo. <i>Blumea</i> , 35(1), 5-70	"Climber on trees, reportedly to a height of c. 5 m." [No evidence was found that <i>Heteroblemma serpens</i> creates a fire hazard in natural ecosystems.]
	Cámara-Leret, R., Ridder-Numan, J. W. A., & Veldkamp, J. F. (2013). Revision of <i>Heteroblemma</i> gen. nov. (Dissochaeteae-Melastomataceae) from Malesia and Vietnam. <i>Blumea-Biodiversity, Evolution and Biogeography of Plants</i> , 58(3), 229-240	"Creeping herb (!), climber to a height of 7 m, or creeper. Cauliflorous from ground level to top." [eteroblemma species are described as having a succulent growth habit, and plants with thick, fleshy leaves and stems are generally unlikely to burn and do not typically contribute to wildfire fuel loads]

409	Is a shade tolerant plant at some stage of its life cycle	y
	Source(s)	Notes

Qsn #	Question	Answer
	Fairchild Tropical Botanic Garden. (2026). <i>Medinilla serpens</i> . https://fairchild.gardenexplorer.org/taxon.aspx?t=200596 . [Accessed 31 Aug 2026]	"It does best in shade to part shade with added moisture during dry periods."
	Gabriella Plants. (2026). <i>Medinilla serpens</i> . https://www.gabriellaplants.com . [Accessed 31 Aug 2026]	"Flowers well in containers and hanging baskets indoors in bright light and outdoors in shade to dappled morning sunlight."
	WRA Specialist. (2026). Personal Communication	<i>Heteroblemma serpens</i> is a tropical understory/epiphytic plant associated with shaded forest habitats, indicating tolerance of low-light conditions during at least part of its life cycle.

410	Tolerates a wide range of soil conditions (or limestone conditions if not a volcanic island)	y
	Source(s)	Notes
	Regalado, J. C., Jr. (1990). Revision of <i>Medinilla</i> (Melastomataceae) of Borneo. <i>Blumea</i> , 35(1), 5-70	"In Sarawak restricted to limestone hills."
	WRA Specialist. (2026). Personal Communication	Based on the scientific data, <i>Heteroblemma serpens</i> does not tolerate a wide range of soil conditions, but it is specifically adapted to grow on limestone.

411	Climbing or smothering growth habit	y
	Source(s)	Notes
	Regalado, J. C., Jr. (1990). Revision of <i>Medinilla</i> (Melastomataceae) of Borneo. <i>Blumea</i> , 35(1), 5-70	"Climber on trees, reportedly to a height of c. 5 m."
	WRA Specialist. (2026). Personal Communication	<i>Heteroblemma serpens</i> has a trailing/climbing growth habit that may allow it to spread over surrounding vegetation.

412	Forms dense thickets	n
	Source(s)	Notes
	Regalado, J. C., Jr. (1990). Revision of <i>Medinilla</i> (Melastomataceae) of Borneo. <i>Blumea</i> , 35(1), 5-70	"Climber on trees, reportedly to a height of c. 5 m." ... "In Sarawak restricted to limestone hills."
	Cámara-Leret, R., Ridder-Numan, J. W. A., & Veldkamp, J. F. (2013). Revision of <i>Heteroblemma</i> gen. nov. (Dissochaeteae-Melastomataceae) from Malesia and Vietnam. <i>Blumea-Biodiversity, Evolution and Biogeography of Plants</i> , 58(3), 229-240	"Habitat – On trees or rocks, limestone hills, only one reference to altitude: 460 m altitude."
	WRA Specialist. (2026). Personal Communication	No evidence was found that <i>Heteroblemma serpens</i> forms dense thickets or monotypic stands.

501	Aquatic	n
	Source(s)	Notes
	Regalado, J. C., Jr. (1990). Revision of <i>Medinilla</i> (Melastomataceae) of Borneo. <i>Blumea</i> , 35(1), 5-70	[Epiphytic climber] "Climber on trees, reportedly to a height of c. 5 m."

Qsn #	Question	Answer
502	Grass	n
	Source(s)	Notes
	Cámara-Leret, R., Ridder-Numan, J. W. A., & Veldkamp, J. F. (2013). Revision of <i>Heteroblemma</i> gen. nov. (Dissochaeteae-Melastomataceae) from Malesia and Vietnam. <i>Blumea-Biodiversity, Evolution and Biogeography of Plants</i> , 58(3), 229-240	"A taxonomic revision is presented of the new genus <i>Heteroblemma</i> (Dissochaeteae - Melastomataceae), formerly a section of <i>Medinilla</i> which occurs in Malesia and Vietnam with 14 species, 3 new, and 11 new combinations."

503	Nitrogen fixing woody plant	n
	Source(s)	Notes
	Cámara-Leret, R., Ridder-Numan, J. W. A., & Veldkamp, J. F. (2013). Revision of <i>Heteroblemma</i> gen. nov. (Dissochaeteae-Melastomataceae) from Malesia and Vietnam. <i>Blumea-Biodiversity, Evolution and Biogeography of Plants</i> , 58(3), 229-240	"A taxonomic revision is presented of the new genus <i>Heteroblemma</i> (Dissochaeteae - Melastomataceae), formerly a section of <i>Medinilla</i> which occurs in Malesia and Vietnam with 14 species, 3 new, and 11 new combinations."

504	Geophyte (herbaceous with underground storage organs -- bulbs, corms, or tubers)	n
	Source(s)	Notes
	Regalado, J. C., Jr. (1990). Revision of <i>Medinilla</i> (Melastomataceae) of Borneo. <i>Blumea</i> , 35(1), 5-70	"Climber on trees, reportedly to a height of c. 5 m."
	Cámara-Leret, R., Ridder-Numan, J. W. A., & Veldkamp, J. F. (2013). Revision of <i>Heteroblemma</i> gen. nov. (Dissochaeteae-Melastomataceae) from Malesia and Vietnam. <i>Blumea-Biodiversity, Evolution and Biogeography of Plants</i> , 58(3), 229-240	"In contrast to <i>Medinilla</i> , in <i>Heteroblemma</i> all species are woody root climbers. Root climbing has evolved in 9 genera in the Palaeotropics and in 9 or 10 in the Neotropics (Clausing & Renner 2001a: 46). Adventitious roots provide a firm hold on supporting trunks and branches but also on rocky boulders along streams. Other than support, adventitious roots simultaneously allow for the up-take of the stem run-off, which contains many nutrients leached from the canopy (Nadkarni 1981)."

601	Evidence of substantial reproductive failure in native habitat	n
	Source(s)	Notes
	Cámara-Leret, R., Ridder-Numan, J. W. A., & Veldkamp, J. F. (2013). Revision of <i>Heteroblemma</i> gen. nov. (Dissochaeteae-Melastomataceae) from Malesia and Vietnam. <i>Blumea-Biodiversity, Evolution and Biogeography of Plants</i> , 58(3), 229-240	"Distribution – Sumatra (Riau Arch: Tudjuh Island), Sarawak (1st Div.), Sabah (Tambunan Distr.). Habitat – On trees or rocks, limestone hills, only one reference to altitude: 460 m altitude." [There is no documented evidence of substantial reproductive failure for <i>Heteroblemma serpens</i> in its native habitat. Although information on its reproductive biology is limited, there are no reports indicating that the species has difficulty reproducing or maintaining populations under natural conditions.]
	IUCN. (2026). The IUCN Red List of Threatened Species. Version 2026-1. https://www.iucnredlist.org/ . [Accessed 31 Aug 2026]	No evidence

602	Produces viable seed	y
	Source(s)	Notes
	Regalado, J. C., Jr. (1990). Revision of <i>Medinilla</i> (Melastomataceae) of Borneo. <i>Blumea</i> , 35(1), 5-70	"Fruits ovoid, c. 5 mm across, ribbed, crowned with persistent calyx lobes, glabrescent, reportedly orange in colour when ripe; stalk slender, 1.0-1.5 cm long, hirsute; seeds numerous, 0.5-0.6 mm long, 0.2 mm across, light yellow." [Seeds presumably viable]

Qsn #	Question	Answer
	Cámara-Leret, R., Ridder-Numan, J. W. A., & Veldkamp, J. F. (2013). Revision of <i>Heteroblemma</i> gen. nov. (Dissochaeteae-Melastomataceae) from Malesia and Vietnam. <i>Blumea-Biodiversity, Evolution and Biogeography of Plants</i> , 58(3), 229-240	"Seeds are numerous, comma-shaped with a papillate testa, up to 1 mm long, bright yellow to orange." [Seeds presumably viable]
	Ecuagenera USA. (2026). <i>Medinilla serpens</i> . https://ecuageneraus.com . [Accessed 31 Aug 2026]	"The actual plant may vary in shape and color from the image as they are propagated from seeds."
	WRA Specialist. (2026). Personal Communication	<i>Heteroblemma serpens</i> (syn. <i>Medinilla serpens</i>) produces fruits containing seeds, and there is no evidence that its seeds are generally nonviable. As a sexually reproducing flowering plant, viable seed production is expected.

603	Hybridizes naturally	
	Source(s)	Notes
	Cámara-Leret, R., Ridder-Numan, J. W. A., & Veldkamp, J. F. (2013). Revision of <i>Heteroblemma</i> gen. nov. (Dissochaeteae-Melastomataceae) from Malesia and Vietnam. <i>Blumea-Biodiversity, Evolution and Biogeography of Plants</i> , 58(3), 229-240	Unknown. No evidence of hybridization in genus

604	Self-compatible or apomictic	
	Source(s)	Notes
	Cámara-Leret, R., Ridder-Numan, J. W. A., & Veldkamp, J. F. (2013). Revision of <i>Heteroblemma</i> gen. nov. (Dissochaeteae-Melastomataceae) from Malesia and Vietnam. <i>Blumea-Biodiversity, Evolution and Biogeography of Plants</i> , 58(3), 229-240	"Flowers born in dense fascicles, on old wood or axillary on young stems, pedicels 10-15 mm long, hirsute. Mature floral buds 9-10 by 3-4 mm. Hypanthium urceolate to campanulate, 3 mm long, pinkish green, hirsute. Sepals 0.5-1 mm long, teeth conspicuous, 0.5-1 mm long, crowned with a 2-3 mm hair. Petals 6-7 mm long, pale pink or pale red, outside papillose. Filaments 2-3 mm long, white. Anthers 4-5 mm long, yellow, lateral appendages not recurved, 0.5 mm long, dorsal spur 1 mm long, triangular to lanceolate. Style 6-8 mm long, dark pink." [While no definitive reproductive strategy has been confirmed for <i>Heteroblemma serpens</i> , self-compatibility is highly plausible based on common family traits and evidence in a close relative, whereas apomixis remains a less likely but unconfirmed possibility.]
	Goldenberg, R., Michelangeli, F. A., & Almeda, F. (Eds.). (2022). <i>Systematics, evolution, and ecology of Melastomataceae</i> . Springer	Unknown. While no definitive reproductive strategy has been confirmed for <i>Heteroblemma serpens</i> , self-compatibility is highly plausible based on common family traits and evidence in a close relative, whereas apomixis remains a less likely but unconfirmed possibility.

605	Requires specialist pollinators	n
	Source(s)	Notes
	Regalado, J. C., Jr. (1990). Revision of <i>Medinilla</i> (Melastomataceae) of Borneo. <i>Blumea</i> , 35(1), 5-70	"No information is available on pollination and seed dispersal for <i>Medinilla</i> . The flowers are not scented and do not provide nectar, but perhaps the brightly coloured flowers and showy bracts in certain species attract pollinators that collect pollen."
	Cámara-Leret, R., Ridder-Numan, J. W. A., & Veldkamp, J. F. (2013). Revision of <i>Heteroblemma</i> gen. nov. (Dissochaeteae-Melastomataceae) from Malesia and Vietnam. <i>Blumea-Biodiversity, Evolution and Biogeography of Plants</i> , 58(3), 229-240	"Pollination is likely by insects like bees and bumblebees, hoverflies, and the like. The position of the anthers and the apical pores suggest pollination by 'buzzing', as is well-known from the flowers of e.g. <i>Solanum</i> . For this they have to alight on the flower"

606	Reproduction by vegetative fragmentation	
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Qsn #	Question	Answer
	Source(s)	Notes
	WRA Specialist. (2026). Personal Communication	Unknown. There is no direct evidence that <i>Heteroblemma serpens</i> naturally reproduces by vegetative fragmentation in the wild. However, closely related species in the genus are readily propagated by cuttings and division, and its growth habit as a creeping climber suggests that physical breakage could potentially lead to new plants, though this has not been documented.

607	Minimum generative time (years)	
	Source(s)	Notes
	WRA Specialist. (2026). Personal Communication	Unknown. Given that <i>H. serpens</i> is a smaller, creeping vine, a timeframe of 2 to 3 years is a reasonable estimate, though this has not been documented for this specific plant

701	Propagules likely to be dispersed unintentionally (plants growing in heavily trafficked areas)	n
	Source(s)	Notes
	Regalado, J. C., Jr. (1990). Revision of <i>Medinilla</i> (Melastomataceae) of Borneo. <i>Blumea</i> , 35(1), 5-70	"Fruits ovoid, c. 5 mm across, ribbed, crowned with persistent calyx lobes, glabrescent, reportedly orange in colour when ripe; stalk slender, 1.0-1.5 cm long, hirsute; seeds numerous, 0.5-0.6 mm long, 0.2 mm across, light yellow." [While small seed size can sometimes facilitate accidental dispersal, there is no specific evidence that this occurs for this species.]
	WRA Specialist. (2026). Personal Communication	<i>Heteroblemma serpens</i> is not known to occur in heavily trafficked habitats, and there is no evidence that its propagules are likely to be dispersed unintentionally by human activity.

702	Propagules dispersed intentionally by people	y
	Source(s)	Notes
	Gabriella Plants. (2026). <i>Medinilla serpens</i> . https://www.gabriellaplants.com . [Accessed 28 Aug 2026]	"This <i>Medinilla</i> can be grown as a vine or ground cover. Foliage emerges a beautiful bronze and matures to deep dark green. The accepted species name is <i>Heteroblemma serpens</i> . Flowers well in containers and hanging baskets indoors in bright light and outdoors in shade to dappled morning sunlight." [Sold commercially on this and other retail websites]
	WRA Specialist. (2026). Personal Communication	Cultivated as an ornamental plant; whole plants and vegetative propagules are intentionally moved and distributed by people through horticulture and the ornamental plant trade.

703	Propagules likely to disperse as a produce contaminant	
	Source(s)	Notes
	WRA Specialist. (2026). Personal Communication	Unknown, but as an ornamental epiphyte, the small seeds could potentially become contaminants of tree fern logs or other growing substrates

704	Propagules adapted to wind dispersal	n
	Source(s)	Notes
	Regalado, J. C., Jr. (1990). Revision of <i>Medinilla</i> (Melastomataceae) of Borneo. <i>Blumea</i> , 35(1), 5-70	"Fruits ovoid, c. 5 mm across, ribbed, crowned with persistent calyx lobes, glabrescent, reportedly orange in colour when ripe; stalk slender, 1.0-1.5 cm long, hirsute; seeds numerous, 0.5-0.6 mm long, 0.2 mm across, light yellow."

Qsn #	Question	Answer
	Cámara-Leret, R., Ridder-Numan, J. W. A., & Veldkamp, J. F. (2013). Revision of <i>Heteroblemma</i> gen. nov. (Dissochaeteae-Melastomataceae) from Malesia and Vietnam. <i>Blumea-Biodiversity, Evolution and Biogeography of Plants</i> , 58(3), 229-240	"The way of dispersal is unknown, but at least in the instances where jelly was observed in the fruits it is likely to be by birds."

705	Propagules water dispersed	
	Source(s)	Notes
	Cámara-Leret, R., Ridder-Numan, J. W. A., & Veldkamp, J. F. (2013). Revision of <i>Heteroblemma</i> gen. nov. (Dissochaeteae-Melastomataceae) from Malesia and Vietnam. <i>Blumea-Biodiversity, Evolution and Biogeography of Plants</i> , 58(3), 229-240	"Habitat – On trees or rocks, limestone hills, only one reference to altitude: 460 m altitude. Collector's notes – Creeping herb (!), climber to a height of 7 m, or creeper. Cauliflorous from ground level to top." [Bird-dispersed epiphyte, but water could secondarily disperse seeds onto moss cover logs, rocks, or other quasi-epiphytic sites]

706	Propagules bird dispersed	y
	Source(s)	Notes
	Cámara-Leret, R., Ridder-Numan, J. W. A., & Veldkamp, J. F. (2013). Revision of <i>Heteroblemma</i> gen. nov. (Dissochaeteae-Melastomataceae) from Malesia and Vietnam. <i>Blumea-Biodiversity, Evolution and Biogeography of Plants</i> , 58(3), 229-240	"The way of dispersal is unknown, but at least in the instances where jelly was observed in the fruits it is likely to be by birds."

707	Propagules dispersed by other animals (externally)	
	Source(s)	Notes
	Regalado, J. C., Jr. (1990). Revision of <i>Medinilla</i> (Melastomataceae) of Borneo. <i>Blumea</i> , 35(1), 5-70	"Fruits ovoid, c. 5 mm across, ribbed, crowned with persistent calyx lobes, glabrescent, reportedly orange in colour when ripe; stalk slender, 1.0-1.5 cm long, hirsute; seeds numerous, 0.5-0.6 mm long, 0.2 mm across, light yellow." [As a bird-dispersed epiphyte, seeds are primarily deposited on trees, but small seed size may facilitate dispersal into "semi-epiphytic" sites such as mossy rocks, logs etc. on the feet or fur of animals. Such dispersal has occurred with other small-seeded Melastomataceae in the Hawaiian Islands]

708	Propagules survive passage through the gut	y
	Source(s)	Notes
	Regalado, J. C., Jr. (1990). Revision of <i>Medinilla</i> (Melastomataceae) of Borneo. <i>Blumea</i> , 35(1), 5-70	"Fruits ovoid, c. 5 mm across, ribbed, crowned with persistent calyx lobes, glabrescent, reportedly orange in colour when ripe; stalk slender, 1.0-1.5 cm long, hirsute; seeds numerous, 0.5-0.6 mm long, 0.2 mm across, light yellow." [Presumably Yes. Given that <i>H. serpens</i> produces similar berry-type fruits and belongs to the same family as these species, it is highly probable that its seeds would also survive gut passage, though this has not been specifically studied.]

801	Prolific seed production (>1000/m2)	
	Source(s)	Notes
	Regalado, J. C., Jr. (1990). Revision of <i>Medinilla</i> (Melastomataceae) of Borneo. <i>Blumea</i> , 35(1), 5-70	"Fruits ovoid, c. 5 mm across, ribbed, crowned with persistent calyx lobes, glabrescent, reportedly orange in colour when ripe; stalk slender, 1.0-1.5 cm long, hirsute; seeds numerous, 0.5-0.6 mm long, 0.2 mm across, light yellow." [Densities unknown]

Qsn #	Question	Answer
802	Evidence that a persistent propagule bank is formed (>1 yr)	
	Source(s)	Notes
	WRA Specialist. (2026). Personal Communication	Unknown

803	Well controlled by herbicides	
	Source(s)	Notes
	WRA Specialist. (2026). Personal Communication	Unknown. No information on herbicide efficacy or chemical control of this species. Epiphytic habit may make herbicide application difficult, and result in non-target effects

804	Tolerates, or benefits from, mutilation, cultivation, or fire	
	Source(s)	Notes
	WRA Specialist. (2026). Personal Communication	Unknown. While the plant's family shows some capacity to tolerate disturbance, there is no specific evidence that <i>Heteroblemma serpens</i> itself tolerates or benefits from mutilation, cultivation, or fire.

805	Effective natural enemies present locally (e.g. introduced biocontrol agents)	
	Source(s)	Notes
	WRA Specialist. (2026). Personal Communication	Unknown. Four related <i>Medinilla</i> species are currently documented as naturalized in the Hawaiian Islands, and natural enemies have not been documented to limit their spread. Members of the Melastomataceae have been targeted for biological control due to the absence of natural enemies in the Hawaiian Islands, and the absence of any native species in the family,

Summary of Risk Traits:

High-Risk Traits

- Shade tolerant (understory/epiphytic)
- Climbing/smothering growth habit
- Produces viable seed
- Intentionally dispersed by people (ornamental trade)
- Bird-dispersed; propagules likely survive gut passage
- Congeneric weeds exist (formerly *Medinilla*)
- Many risk traits unknown (uncertainty increases risk)

Low-Risk Traits

- Not naturalized beyond native range (but limited evidence of introduction)
- Not documented as any type of weed (but limited evidence of introduction)
- No spines, thorns, or burrs
- Not toxic to animals or humans
- No fire hazard (succulent)
- Does not form dense thickets
- Not wind-dispersed

Second Screening Results for Vines & Lianas

- (A) Reported as a weed of cultivated lands?> No
 - (B) Unpalatable to grazers Or known to form dense stands?> No
 - (C) Shade tolerant or known to form dense stands?> Shade tolerant
 - (D) Bird- Or clearly wind- dispersed?> Bird-Dispersed
 - (E) Life cycle <4 years? Unknown
- Outcome = Evaluate Further